

Comments/Questions
Nuisance Animal and Wildlife Control Operators Meeting
Lansing Center 2/23/12

Permit Fee Comments

- Yes to permit fee. (19)
- No to permit fee. (2)
- Yes to \$50. (12)
- Permit should be increased to \$150 every 3 years or \$50 a year. (2)
- Why is permit fee so low?
- Fee seems to low. (5)
- Fee should be at least \$100.
- The fee is too low. It should be higher to more effectively cover the costs of administering the program. A MDNR minnow dealer's license is \$500!!
- Fees are a normal cost to doing business, people should understand the fee.
- Permit fee basis is to generate additional revenue due to lack of funding/income.

Specific Testing Comments

- No to Online. (4)
- Yes to online. (7)
- Questionable about online testing.
- Done at district level with DNR present. (3)
 - DNR RESPONSE: We agree this is a great idea. Unfortunately, lack of funding, lack of staff and limited resources make this option impossible.
- Yes to test. (6)
- No to test. (4)
- 200-250 is reasonable. (3)
- Cost of test is too high. (8)
- Should require >70% to pass. (2)
- Re-rest if failed to renew license in time.
- Yes to onetime test. (4)
- The test fee should be charged by the module that the operator uses.
- If permit expired, they should have to re-test.

Who should Test Comments

- No grandfathering (7)

- Should grandfather in. (7)
- Would also like to see it given at live events.
- Should have sub-permitees.
- Technicians and employees should also have to pass the test.
- Everyone needs to be on the same page (including goose).
- Everyone needs to take the test at least once.
- Testing should only be required for new permits. (should grandfather)
- Should have background checks.
- Need for Sub-permitees to test 1 time to protect the permit holder.
- Owner should be responsible to train his/her employees.
- Test should be mandatory for homeowners.
- Need to fix issue of one permit holder having multiple technicians working under the original permit. They would not have proven ANY level of competency.
- Retest every 3 years or obtain continuing education credits.
- Homeowners are the biggest violators and need to be trained.
- Permittees test should be every 3-5 years.

Modules and Cont. Education Credits Comments

- Yes to additional species modules.
- Should have ongoing courses.
- Should have continuing education credits.
- Modules don't make more ethical or better trappers.
- Should only test on state rules and laws.
- Should require continued education credits.
- Continued education should count as test.

Miscellaneous Testing Comments

- The test will be a productive way to ensure all operators have at least a basic competency. Further values and methodologies can change – This may be a productive way to keep updated on new research and changing public perceptions as they pertain to wildlife management.
- Testing and permit fees should be combined. (2)
- MDOA Requires core + 70 vertebrates pest management seems to me that would be a place to start and cost \$75. (2)
 - DNR RESPONSE: We are currently reviewing this test to see what it entails. This test may not meet all our needs. But we will definitely take a look at it.

- This is only a revenue source for UNL and that is bad.
 - DNR RESPONSE: The fee for the test covers administrative costs. UNL is also providing service that we feel is necessary and that we cannot adequately provide on our own. We do not feel the \$150 onetime fee is excessive.
- Should have MSU create the course and keep the money in-state.
- High cost for testing and permits push out small contractors and this is unfair.
- UNL is too in depth. We should use a more basic course.
- Should not have to pay another \$250 again just because we took it before an exam was developed. The MADCA exam is Michigan Specific and should count as meeting the certification requirement for current permit holders.
 - DNR RESPONSE: The new estimate on the test cost is \$150. While it is good that individuals are taking training on their own we feel it is also important to treat permit holders equally and use the same test verification process and requirements for everyone. We can review the potential for allowing prior coursework count but it is unlikely we will go in that direction.
- Should require liability insurance. (3)
- Recommend minimum insurance if going into house or using a ladder.
- We are taking care of DNR's wildlife problems, Leave us be.
 - DNR RESPONSE: ADC operators do indeed provide a valuable service to Michigan residents. It is also true that the DNR cannot handle all wildlife nuisance complaints. However, we have a responsibility to ADC permit holders, those with nuisance problems, as well as to wildlife to ensure that nuisance control activities are handled in the best possible manner. We intend to do that in the most efficient way possible that ensures adequate controls on ADC activities but also in a way that allows ADC operators to be effective.
- There are more companies out there that have been caught multiple times breaking the laws. If you would enforce the current laws we would get rid of the problem issues.

DNR RESPONSE: DNR Law Enforcement Division enforces the current ADC regulations. They will continue to do so with any new regulations. If you feel there are violations occurring that are not being responded to, please contact DNR Law Enforcement Division and provide them with information on the violation. Please keep in mind that many complaints are reported to Law Enforcement Officers and they may need to prioritize their responses to complaints.
- We are put to test every day because each wildlife situation is different. We are currently training.
- Taking the same course will not determine competency level.
- Feral cats are becoming increasingly common. DNR should make a public policy for them similar to mute swans.
- We need better enforcement.

Comment [CAB1]: check.

- This industry is and should stay self regulating.
- Seems like you are playing along with Gov. Snyder's plan to get more money from the middle class.